

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 PER-01 ABF-01

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R 290526Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3216

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8446

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: USIRJC, AFSP

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL STAFF REQUIREMENTS FOR JOINT
COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

REFS: A. STATE 198651

B. TEHRAN A-145 27 JULY

C. TEHRAN 7691

D. STATE 126829

E. STATE 177168

1. IN A VARIETY OF PERSONNEL ASSESSMENTS AND PROJECTIONS
FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE SET
FORTH OUR NEEDS INCLUSIVE OF EXPANDED USIRJC
ACTIVITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT AT PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED
LEVELS OF JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT SIX
TO TWELVE MONTHS, WE WILL HAVE THE CAPABILITY BOTH ON
THE PROGRAM AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE TO COPE IF
POSITIONS ALREADY REQUESTED ARE AUTHORIZED AND FILLED.

2. THE THREE PROGRAM POSITIONS ALREADY REQUESTED (ONE
OFFICER, ONE SECRETARY, AND ONE COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT)
AS NOTED IN REF A WILL ENABLE THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
SECTION UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TO
COVER FULLY THE SUBSTANTIVE LIAISON ASPECTS OF JOINT
COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS STRENGTHEN OUR
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CAPABILITIES IN THE CLOSELY RELATED REPORTING AND

BUSINESSMEN'S SERVICES AREAS. OUR CONCEPTION OF JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IS ONE OF LIAISON RATHER THAN EMPHASIS ON CENTRALIZED PROGRAM DIRECTION. AS WE SEE IT THE INTEGRATION OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY IN THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION IS PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE IN VIEW OF THE STRONG COMMERCIAL BENT OF MOST USIRJC ACTIVITIES. ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE OFFICE AND BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE WHICH MAY PARALLEL OR DUPLICATE EXISTING WORKLOADS IS NOT DESIRABLE OR NECESSARY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF EFFICIENCY, AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE PHYSICAL FACILITIES, PUBLIC RELATIONS OR SECURITY AT THE PRESENT TIME.

4. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TOWARD RESOLVING THE JOINT COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROBLEM DESCRIBED PARA 5 REF A. IF THE DEPARTMENT IS INDEED WILLING TO FUND SUPPORT POSITIONS NOW, WE CAN PROCEED WITHOUT FINAL AGREEMENT WITH GOI ON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS. IN DOING SO, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THAT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO PERSUADE THE GOI THAT THESE SUPPORT POSITIONS ARE A LEGITIMATE COST TO THE GOI IN PURSUANCE OF JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION WE MIGHT NOTE THAT WE HAVE JUST TALKED WITH MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE UNDER SECRETARY VAFA, WHO HAS NOW RETURNED FROM HIS LONG VACATION, ABOUT WHERE WE NOW STAND. VAFA WAS NOT VERY APOLOGETIC ABOUT PAST DELAYS BUT DID SAY THAT MOST OF THE MINISTRIES INTERESTED IN TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE NOW RESPONDED TO HIS QUERY ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND THEIR ABILITY TO FUND TECHNICIANS AND ALLIED SUPPORT COSTS. HE SAID THAT VERY FRANKLY A NUMBER HAD FOUND THE COSTS EXCESSIVE (WE HAD EARLIER SUPPLIED VAFA WITH ILLUSTRATIVE FIGURES ON WHAT A TYPICAL TECHNICIAN WITH FAMILY OF FOUR WOULD COST, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCES, ETC.). IN A NUMBER OF CASES IT WAS FELT THAT EXPERTS OF OTHER NATIONALITIES WITH EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS COULD BE OBTAINED AT FAR LESS COST AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE GOI WOULD BE

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PURSUING THIS OPTION. NEVERTHELESS HE SAID INTEREST IN SOME AREAS (AND HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED TRANSPORTATION) REMAINS HIGH. HE EXPECTS SENIOR DEPUTY MINISTER MEHRAN TO RETURN FROM VACATION IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND AFTER CONSULTING WITH HIM HOPES TO HAVE A MORE FORMAL AND PRECISE STATEMENT TO MAKE TO US ON THESE QUESTIONS NEXT WEEK.

5. IN SUM, IF WE ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE RISK THAT
THE COST OF JOINT COMMISSION SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND
ACTIVITIES MAY NOT BE RECOVERABLE, THEN WE MAY PROCEED
ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED REF A. IF NOT, WE SHOULD CON-
TINUE TO DEFER ACTION UNTIL WE HAVE FURTHER CLARIFICATION,
HOPEFULLY SOON, FROM THE GOI.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN08446
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750299-0755
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975083/aaaaackx.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 75 STATE 198651
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL STAFF REQUIREMENTS FOR JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES
TAGS: AFSP, USIRJC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006